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JOB WORK A SPECIALTY — DEVOTED TO THE LOCAL AND INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS OF APPOMATTOX AND BUCKINGHAM COUNTIES. — JOB WORK A SPECIALTY

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HOW THE GULLIES CAN BE RECLAIMED

Plowing-in and Seeding to Grass or Timber Recommended.

Farmers Should Build Soil-Saving Dams That Check Erosion and Cause the Filling of Space With Silt.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Gullies are a source of great loss to the farmer. They ruin fertile land, interfere with farm operations, undermine buildings, encroach on public roads, endanger the life of stock and mar the beauty and lower the market value of the farm. They can be prevented by increasing the absorptive capacity of the soil by tilling, protecting the surface from erosion by proper cultivation, and by conducting the surplus water from the field at a low velocity. Gullies can be reclaimed by plowing-in and seeding to grass or timber, or by building soil-saving dams that check erosion and cause the filling of the gully with silt.

In checking gullying, the first thing is to stop it at the head. If possible, the water should be turned into a natural water-course before it reaches the head of the gully. In shallow gullies, a dam built close to the head will give a fill of soil in a short time. In deeper gullies, a longer time is necessary according to the condition and amount of washing. Brush and straw, firmly fastened down, make a good dam for stopping erosion.

In regions where timber and brush are plentiful good results in filling gullies have been obtained by the use of brush dams. In hill-side gullies where the flow of water is small the dams are commonly built of loose brush sometimes weighted down with logs. Where the flow is enough to overtop the dam, the brush can be held down by crossp1eces and stakes. Simply dumping the brush into a gully will not give good results.

Before beginning to reclaim a gully with soil-saving dams, the entire work of reclamation should be planned. If only a part of the work is planned it may not fit into the complete reclamation work which may be undertaken later. After the head dam is in place and erosion checked, a number of low, temporary dams can be used in a wide, shallow depression that will gradually fill. If the gully ends in the side of a deep drainage channel, the lower end must be built up with a high dam. The higher the dams the fewer will be required, but several low dams are less costly than one high one and are more easily constructed.

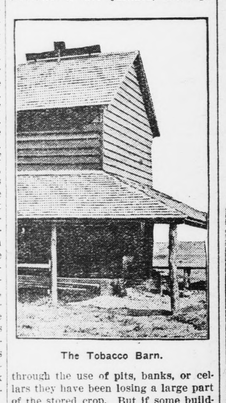
POTATOES IN TOBACCO BARNS

Farmers Who Grow Both Crops Can Save in Their Storage Building Equipment.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

In sweet potato areas in tobacco territory, farmers who grow both crops can save in building equipment by using their flue-heated tobacco barns for the storage of potatoes. The changes needed and the methods of management that have been found good when the buildings are used for the two purposes are described by the United States Department of Agriculture in Farmers' Bulletin 1267, Utilization of Flue-Heated Tobacco Barns for Sweet Potato Storage.

Many farmers who do not raise a large acreage of sweet potatoes feel that the expense of a special storage structure is not justified, although



The Tobacco Barn.

through the use of pits, banks, or cellars they have been losing a large part of the stored crop. But if some building which serves another important purpose can be remodeled so as to meet both needs a greater part of the sweet potatoes produced can be saved at a small outlay of money. On farms which have flue-heated tobacco barns or similar buildings that serve their main purpose before the potato harvest, this saving is practical.

The bulletin contains detailed plans for converting tobacco barns, bill of materials for structures of a certain size, methods of storage-house management, and descriptions of a number of varieties of sweet potatoes. Copies may be obtained free by addressing the department at Washington, D. C.

Caring for Harness.

Harness that is too light or of poor quality cannot give many years of service. In selecting harness it is more economical to get a set that is too heavy than one which is too light for the work required. Make sure especially that the reins, breeching, holdback straps, tugs or traces, bellybands, and yoke straps are strong. A runaway team cannot be controlled with weak reins, nor will weak tugs and straps stand heavy work. No portion of the harness should show cracks on the grain side when the leather is sharply bent.

When a self-feeder is used plenty of water should be supplied, allow a sufficient quantity of green feed such as rape, grass or alfalfa so that the hogs can have a balanced ration.

Sheep equalize labor on the farm, requiring least in summer when labor is scarce and high, and most in winter when labor is usually plentiful and cheap.

Painting roosts and nests with a coal tar disinfectant will rid the hens of troublesome mites.

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TURKISH FORCES AT BRITISH LINE

Situation Nears Climax as Turks Reach Chanok

DICTATORS RULE GREECE

Turkish Forces Now Practically Against British Entrenchments—Provisional Military Government Set Up In Athens.

Constantinople.—Events are surely approaching a climax. The Turks have occupied the entire neutral zone on the Asiatic side of the Dardanelles, with the exception of the Chanak area, around which they have established infantry units in a semi-circle, virtually investing the British lines.

The Turkish cavalry squadrons are retiring, and the British troops, who are in strong force at Chanak, are ready for what may happen.

In these circumstances General Harington, the British commander-in-chief, has sent a wireless message to Kemal Pasha at Smyrna, asking for an immediate personal meeting. He leaves the choice of place to Kemal, whose reply is expected momentarily.

Yussuf Kemal Pasha, the Nationalist Foreign Minister, is understood to have gone to Angora to submit the Allied joint note to the Nationalist Assembly, but in the meantime Turkish concentrations are being pushed with the greatest speed.

British reinforcements are reaching here and the threatened area. The super-dreadnoughts Revenge and Revolution, the most powerful fighting machines afloat, have arrived in the Dardanelles, while a battalion of North Staffordshires and 1,000 men of the British air forces landed and marched through Constantinople with bands playing. Their presence has helped to bring about a reassuring effect.

The Turkish instructions to the men in the Chanak sector are to advance the farthest possible without meeting resistance. They are now practically against the British entrenchments, and obviously the situation cannot be indefinitely prolonged.

Notwithstanding the Kemalist concentrations around Shanak, however, the British are confident of holding their lines against all odds. They declared that their flanks are well protected by the fleet. The battleships with their 16-inch guns can sweep the whole area around Chanak for a distance of 20 miles, and it is possible for the British to dismount some of their giant naval guns and use them for shore batteries.

The Turks at present have only machine guns in the Chanak area. If they brought up heavy artillery the security of Chanak might be seriously challenged, the British admit, but the entrenchments in this sector are said to be more efficient than any used in the World War. Since September 11, 2,000 men from the labor squad, 1,000 from the fleet and several thousand from the army have been steadily building trenches and setting up gun emplacements.

London Takes Grave View.

London.—The British Cabinet held three successive meetings. This fact alone is sufficient comment upon the gravity of the situation in the Near East.

The Greek revolution, which was a military and naval coup, seems to have been carried out with surprising swiftness and completeness. Information regarding Constantine is meager, but one report had it that he was a prisoner of the revolutionists.

INSANITY MRS. PHILLIPS' PLEA.

Wife Who Beat Young Widow To Death Soon To Face Trial.

Los Angeles.—Insanity will be the defense of Mrs. Clara P. Phillips, charged with having beaten Mrs. Alberta Tremaine Meadows, 20-year-old widow, to death with a hammer. That was disclosed when the public defender, who will represent Mrs. Phillips at her trial, set to open October 20, submitted to the District Attorney's office interrogatories addressed to 13 persons residing in Texas. They included questions as to alleged lapses of sanity on the part of the defendant.

MONSTER DEVILFISH LANDED.

Creature Captured From Gulf Weighs Over 2,000 Pounds.

Gulfport, Miss.—A devilfish, captured by two shrimp fishermen, measured 18 feet across and 13 feet in length. Estimates of its weight ranged from 2,000 to 3,500 pounds. Thirty-two men attempted to pull it up on the beach, but got only half of its body out of the water.

GEORGIANS LYNCH NEGRO.

Alleged Assailant Of White Woman Was On His Way To Trial.

Sandersville, Ga.—Jim Johnson, negro, was taken from officers and lynched while en route to Wrightsville to stand trial, according to word received from Deputy Sheriff Wood, who had the prisoner in charge. The negro was charged with attacking a white woman.

WOULD CANCEL CITIZENSHIP

New York.—The United States Government began suit here for cancellation of the naturalization of Ferdinand Hansen, writer and friend of Jeremiah J. O'Leary, charging that he fraudulently obtained the papers and that he violated his oath of allegiance after he became a citizen. Hansen now is in Germany, where he is reported to be conducting a propaganda bureau.

ARSENAL BLOWS UP MORE THAN 100 KILLED.

Spezia, Italy.—More than 100 persons were killed when the Falconara Fort, near here, blew up after lightning hit the powder magazine.

The force of the blast wrecked the town of San Terenzio.

Indescribable confusion followed the terrific explosion and there was some delay in estimating the number of dead and injured.

First reports were that 40 lives had been lost, but as gendarmes penetrated the ruined areas the death list quickly mounted to 100.

The bodies of those who were killed were horribly mangled, most of them dying instantly.

Houses in the town were shattered and crumpled down on the occupants.

It was believed that most of those killed in the fort were soldiers and sailors.

The blast was heard for miles around and relief was rushed from nearby towns.

GOVERNMENT MUST RAISE BILLIONS

Has Difficult Problem of Financing On Its Hands

BIG OBLIGATIONS DUE

Prospective Heavy Deficit In Current Budget Also To Be Taken Care Of—Some Maturing Obligations.

Washington. — Uncle Sam must solve a difficult financial problem in the near future.

By the end of this fiscal year he must raise more than $2,225,000,000 to meet a deficit in running expenses and maturing obligations, according to estimates prepared by the Budget Bureau. This sum must be raised in addition to ordinary governmental receipts.

More than $1,500,000,000 of the total must be secured by the end of this calendar year.

The biggest single item is $900,000,000, and represents the Victory notes called for redemption on December 15.

Next in size is the sum of $515,000,000 to meet War Savings certificates maturing on January 1. To this must be added $125,000,000 in interest on these certificates.

Other interest obligations total $125,000,000. Rounding out these figures is the prospective net deficit of $425,000,000 in running expenses.

Budget Bureau experts believe that part of the total will be met out of current receipts, as they expect the new tariff measure to increase the Federal revenues to a measurable extent. An increase of $3,500,000 in customs receipts was noted Saturday, the first day the new tariff was in effect, but this was partly due to the failure of eleventh-hour efforts to import goods under the old and lower rates.

The prospective net deficit for this fiscal year totals $687,000,000, according to Budget Bureau estimates. There is an offset against this sum, however, of $272,000,000, which represents the general balance in the Treasury at the close of the last fiscal year.

Total receipts for this fiscal year were estimated at $3,073,825,311, while expenditures were placed at $3,771,258,542.

Secretary of the Treasury Mellon is planning a series of funding operations to meet the obligations.

TO CALL CONGRESS IN NOVEMBER

President Wants Early Action On Ship Subsidy.

Washington. — Although President Harding has not definitely committed himself to the calling of a special session of Congress in November, he is of the opinion that Congress should assemble prior to the December session to consider the ship subsidy bill and legislation which must be enacted before March 4.

An Administration spokesman, outlining the views of the Executive, said that as it was regarded a certainty that Congress would have to be in session either prior to or after the December session, which expires automatically March 4, the President believed it would be preferable to meet in November. A special session in November would permit Congress to get started on its routine work in time to insure its completion by March, according to the view of the President.

"BEGGAR" OWNS AUTO.

Has Chauffeur To Go With It, Trenton Police Find.

Trenton, N. J.—When Earl Stewart, a legless man, forfeited a $5 deposit by failing to appear in court to answer a charge of street begging, the police discovered that he owned a motor car and had his own chauffeur. When he was arrested he gave his address as New York, and startled the police by asking them to notify his wife, a guest at one of the leading hotels here.

RUINS MAY BE ANCIENT CITY.

Duluth, Minn.—William P. F. Ferguson, archaeologist and author, of Franklin, Pa., believes he has discovered the ruins of an ancient city, inhabited probably 1,000 to 2,000 years ago, on Isle Royale, off the north shore of Lake Superior. Dr. Ferguson said he would return next summer with another expedition to conduct further explorations. The city, he said, consisted of a series of semi-underground dwellings on the south side of the island.

NAVY PLANES HIT SHIP SEVEN TIMES

Experts Differ as to Value of Aerial Attack

SOME TERM IT SUCCESSFUL

Officers Of Vessels Hold, However, That Big Guns Would Have Demolished Attackers—Make Flank Attack.

Norfolk, Va. — Diametrically opposite opinions developed among observing officers as the result of the maneuvers off the Virginia Capes when a squadron of torpedo planes searched out three ships of the Atlantic fleet and theoretically destroyed one of them.

Seven hits were registered out of 17 torpedoes discharged, all finding their mark on the Arkansas.

In the opinion of Rear-Admiral W. A. Moffett, chief of the Naval Air Service, Commander T. G. Ellyson, of the Air Service, Navy Department, and Col. C. H. Danforth, Army Air Service commandant of Langley Field, Va., the test was satisfactory in all respects, demonstrating, in their view, that planes equipped with torpedoes can successfully attack battleships from the surface, especially if protected by a smoke screen or fog.

Naval officers of the staff and line attached to the battle fleet, on the other hand, generally contend that the experiments only proved that the planes are effective within a limited radius from their base and that the two squadrons could have been annihilated before coming within striking distance of the dreadnaught had the battleships been protected by the usual screens of destroyers. They also contend that the secondary batteries of the warships under battle conditions could have blown to atoms every plane before it had an opportunity to discharge its destructive cargo.

Eighteen planes participated in the mimic battle, but one failed to discharge its missile. The test was staged under ideal weather conditions.

Promptly at 5 o'clock the flagship Wyoming, with Admiral J. C. McDonald, commander-in-chief of the battleship force of the Atlantic Fleet on board, and the super dreadnoughts Arkansas and North Dakota got under way and headed out to sea. After steaming three hours the fleet reached the rendezvous—about 50 miles off the Capes—and awaited the attack.

At 9:20 the lookouts on the flagship sighted the naval dirigible C-7, which was followed shortly afterward by a flotilla of scout planes and other carrying observers.

At 10:18 the first squadron of nine torpedo planes appeared on the horizon and the battleships put on forced draft and began maneuvering at full speed, to keep the attacking force astern. General quarters were sounded on all the ships, and they were cleared for action while the guns were trained on the rapidly advancing "enemy." As the second squadron of torpedo laden fliers drew near Admiral McDonald placed his ships so as to avoid the enemy force, keeping one squadron ahead and the other astern.

The dreadnaughts went into battle with the target ship Arkansas in the center of the line, the distance between the three warships preventing a broadside. Changing their tactics the planes attacked on the flanks of the fleet and concentrated on the Arkansas, scoring their first hit on the starboard quarter. The angle fire was kept on the other two battleships which were constantly maneuvering at full speed. The flagship narrowly escaped being hit by clever manouvering on the part of the navigators and the North Dakota also escaped theoretical destruction by a slim margin.

Commander Bartlett, of the attacking force, maneuvered his planes around the warships seeking every opportunity to strike a vital spot and frequently succeeded.

The crews of the battleships, handicapped by the absence of supporting destroyers, were forced to defend themselves with their rudders, their guns being silent.

Two of the planes were forced down after the test, their gasoline tanks becoming empty after they had passed the Capes on their return to the naval base here. The battleship Delaware was scheduled to take part in the maneuvers, but instead remained at anchor.

POLAND BUYS 7,504 R. R. CARS.

Bids Highest For Carriers Built For Europe During War.

Washington.—The War Department announced the sale of 7,504 European-type railway cars to the Republic of Poland for the sum of $4,502,560, of which, $1,200,640 will be paid in cash and the remainder in six-year and five-year 5 per cent. notes of the Polish Republic. The Polish Government, the statement said, is arranging to complete the shipment of the cars to Poland in about 10 months. The cars are stored in yards at Nortolk and New York and because of differences in type and gauge are not available for use on American railroads, having been built here during the war for the use of the American army in France.

REV. J. H. McNEILLY DEAD.

Was Chaplain Of Quarles' Brigade In Confederate Army.

Nashville, Tenn.—The Rev. J. H. McNeilly, aged 84, chaplain of Quarles' Confederate Brigade in the Civil War, and 62 years in the ministrty of the Southern Presbyterian Church, died here. Much of his time in late years was passed in writing about the Confederacy and its heroes. To the end of his days he was devoted to the "Lost Cause."

PLOT TO ASSASSINATE IRISH CABINET FOILED.

Dublin.—A plot to blow up the Provisional Government building and assassinate the members of the Cabinet was frustrated. A mine was discovered beneath the building.

Two clerks were reported to have been arrested.

Captain Considine, of the Free State Army, was killed when his troops were attacked from ambush in County Clare.

Free State forces are on the offensive in County Kerry. A battle is reported from Waterford. Several persons were said to have been killed in this engagement.

UNITED STATES GIVES APPROVAL

To Allied Proposal in Near East Crisis

POLICY IS ANNOUNCED

Unlikely To Be At Parley—Announcement Is Made To Inform Turks Of American Attitude.

Washington.—Allied proposals to insure effectively freedom of the Dardenelles and protection of racial and religious minorities in negotiating a permanent peace settlement of the Near Eastern crisis "are clearly in accord with American sentiments," Secretary Hughes declared in the first formal assertion of American policy toward the Turkish problem. At the same time Mr. Hughes took occasion to express the trust of the Washington Government that arrangements would be made to keep the Straits open and maintain peace "pending the conference to conclude a final treaty of peace between Turkey, Greece and the Allies."

The statement was made in reply to a question submitted to Mr. Hughes as to the attitude of the American Government toward the peace proposals made by the Allies. His answer follows:

"The American Government is gratified to observe that the proposal of the three Allied Governments seeks to insure effectively 'the liberty of the Dardanelles, the Sea of Marmara and the Bosphorus, as well as protection of the racial and religious minorities.' These points are clearly in accord with American sentiment.

"This Government also trusts that suitable arrangements may be agreed upon in the interest of peace to preserve the freedom of the Straits pending the conference to conclude a final treaty of peace between Turkey, Greece and the Allies."

Beyond this expression, State Department officials declined to go in outlining the American attitude. No authoritative statement was available as to the possibility that the Washington Government would accept an invitation to be represented at the Conference of Venice to negotiate the peace treaty. As the question has not arisen except in unofficial reports from London as to the desire of the British Government for American participation, it was deemed to be not now before the American Government.

Mr. Hughes declined specifically, in answering the inquiry as to the American attitude, to comment in any way on any territorial questions involved in solution of the present Near Eastern problem. In this connection, however, it was pointed out at the department that the points upon which the Secretary did express the Government's views involved only matters in which the United States has a very direct interest of long standing. These include free movement between the Aegean and Black seas for American vessels, the rights under treaty of the denominational educational institutions maintained in Turkey by American religious organizations and other similar matters.

There was some feeling among officials that the positive assertion of American approval of the main Allied principles of settlement might help smooth out the situation. It was felt that the Kemalist Government might be influenced to a certain extent by knowledge of the American viewpoint.

As a matter of routine, any Governmental pronouncement of such importance as Mr. Hughes' statement is communicated to American diplomatic representatives abroad, and Rear Admiral Bristol, at Constantinople, will, without question, be able to advise the Kemalist representative there quite fully of the American attitude.

A further complication to any direct American participation in the Venice conference may arise from the demand of Russia Soviet authorities to be represented in the negotiations and Kemalist support of that demand. Should an investigation to the conference be extended to the United States and also to the Moscow Government, the policy of abstaining from any political intercourse with Soviet Russia, which the Washington authorities have followed, would have to be continued.

SAYS JURY DRANK EVIDENCE.

Bootlegger's Plea Fails To Get Him New Trial.

Charles Town, W. Va.—Francis Miller, a merchant at Kearneysville, who was convicted last February of selling whisky, has been sentenced by Judge Woods to three months in the county jail and to pay a fine of $200. Miller asked for a new trial on the ground some of the jury drank up some of the evidence, but the court declined to interfere with the verdict

SHORT CUTS IN STATE NEWS

The Latest News From All Over the State

HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

Roanoke. — The local branch of the United States Veterans Bureau has inaugurated a campaign to find employment for rehabilitated veterans, and a comprehensive program for obtaining work for such men has been mapped out, according to A. M. Clapp, assistant employment representative of the bureau.

Fredericksburg.—A reunion of veterans of both the Confederate and World Wars of Westmoreland county was held at Montross. This is an annual event in Westmoreland, and a large crowd gathered from all over the county. Patriotic speeches were made and a big free community dinner was served.

Fredericksburg.—The military company recently organized in Fredericksburg by Captain A. L. Johnson and Lieutenant M. B. Rowe, Jr., has been officially designated as Battalion Headquarters Detachment and Combat Train, 111th Field Artillery, Virginia National Guard, with Captain Johnson as commanding officer and Lieutenant Rowe, second officer.

Lynchburg.—The local Ku Klux Klan went on record here as being behind the Billy Sunday campaign that is now going on in this city, that record being in the form of a check for $111.11, and an accompanying letter wishing the evangelist success in his work. The letter came as a surprise to many when read by one of Mr. Sunday's party.

Roanoke.—Federal officers poured into a sewer at the Federal Building Thursday, 600 gallons of moonshine liquor. Wednesday afternoon they poured out 1,300 gallons. These lots, together with others recently destroyed, bring the total quantity of liquor destroyed here recently up to 3,000 gallons, which, at $1 a pint, would be worth $24,000.

Richmond. — Resolution authorizing an increase of the capital stock of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway by the issuance of preferred stock of $30,000,000 par amount, was unanimously adopted by stockholders of the company at a meeting held at the general offices in Richmond. This will be divided into 300,000 shares of the par value of $100 each, convertible into common stock.

Portsmouth.—The installation of a number of telephones from the pulpit to the pews in the First Presbyterian Church here for the benefit of deaf members in the congregation, was the suggestion of the Rev. T. C. Bales, pastor of that church, at a meeting of the Women's Auxiliary. Rev. Mr. Bales explained that a number of the members of the church found difficulty in hearing his sermon, especially those seated some distance from the pulpit.

Clarksville.—Tobacco sales on the market here continue good, with a high average. It is expected that over 4,000,000 pounds of the weed will be sold here during the season. The prices so far have been good, averaging from 20 to 25 cents a pound. All the large tobacco companies are represented on the local floors, and much interest is being shown in the sales. The opening sales consisted of priming, with some stalk tobacco.

Norfolk. — The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries in Virginia has abandoned the hope of reviving the herds of elk that probably roamed the woods and fields of this section of the country before the white man took up his habitation here. Commissioner W. McDonald Lee, at present head of the department, said the attempt to restock Virginia with elk had been proven a complete failure, and this year the hunters and farmers will be given freedom to kill off these biggest members of the deer tribe in the State. The one hundred or more elk liberated in Virginia about five years ago and protected by the law since that time have multiplied, but with the restrictions against shooting them, they have also become "arrogant," to use the words of Commissioner Lee. Farmers in the section where they have ranged have complained that the elk have damaged their crops and in one or two instances killed young cattle. Commissioner Lee predicts, however, that there will be no elk left in Virginia after the hunters are given the privilege of shooting them this year. The month of December will be the open season for shooting elk.

Richmond.—Replying to a request for a conference between the striking shopmen and the officials of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad, Eppa Hunton, Jr., president of that company, declared there would be no conference, and that if any of the strikers were taken back, it would be as new men and as individuals. Representatives of the striking shopmen declared that the shopmen would not return as individuals, but only as a unit, and that they would hold out until all were taken back.

Fredericksburg. — The Hanover Chapter, U. D. C., has elected the following delegates to the annual meeting of the Virginia Division, U. D. C., in Fredericksburg on October 10 and 13; Delegates, Mrs. J. G. Hughes, alternate Mrs. Charles Stebbins, Sr.; delegate, Miss Mary O. Haw, alternate, Mrs. Pat Cardwell; delegate, Mrs. Henry Carter, alternate, Mrs. Walter Sydnor, Sr.; delegate, Mrs. J. A. Hoofnagle, alternate, Mrs. W. P. Shelton; delegate, Mrs. Mary Luck, alternate, Mrs. Floyd Tucker, Sr.

Norfolk.—Activities of the Peanut Growers' Exchange, which has for two seasons played such an important part in the operations of the peanut industry, will be directed from Norfolk during the coming year.

Blacksburg.—H. A. Thompson, a graduate of Rochester High School, Rochester, N. Y., and the Springfield Training School, has been appointed instructor in physical education at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Mr. Thompson takes the place of Stanley B. Sutton, who resigned to take charge of all branches of sport at the George School, near Philadelphia. The new instructor entered upon his new duties Wednesday.

Petersburg.—Mrs. S. M. Woods, the new commandant of the local Salvation Army headquarters, has arrived in the city and already taken up her new duties. Her husband, Commandant Woods, is still in Arizona for his health, having been ordered there some time ago after doing good work in Cumberland, Md. He will come to Petersburg later and assist his wife. They are succeeding Envoy and Mrs. McCutcheon.

Newport News.—Joseph A. (Mike) Massie, city attorney of Newport News, and one-time football idol, of the University of Virginia, died at his home here, after an illness of several months. He was the son of the late Colonel Thomas B. Massie and Eliza Anderson Massie, and was born in Rappahannock County, Va., September 24, 1871. He was graduated from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1892, and in law from the University of Virginia in 1894. He belonged to the Phi Kappa Sigma Fraternity and both at V. P. I. and the university was prominent in athletics.

Richmond.—Recommendations for special camp training for members of the Virginia National Guard were announced by Brigadier-General William W. Sale, Adjutant-General of Virginia. First Lieutenant Ernest S. Jones, of Petersburg, of the One Hundred and Eighty-third Infantry, and First Lieutenant John W. Easley, of South Boston, One Hundred and Sixteenth Infantry, have been recommended by General Sale to attend the Infantry Officers' School at Camp Benning, Ga., from November 1 to January 31. Staff Sergeant Reginald L. Blankenship, of Richmond, Quartermasters' Corps, has been recommended to attend the training camp at Holabird, Md., the date of which has not been announced by the War Department.

Danville.—D. J. May, prosperous farmer of Mountain Hill, whose correspondence courtship with a woman of New York State was recently aired at length, is happily married. He conveyed the information himself, stating that Saturday he was married to Miss Anne Selby, a school teacher of Washington, N. C., just twenty-two hours after setting eyes on her for the first time. May said that he owed to newspaper publicity his present happiness, asserting that since his matrimonial ventures came into the public eye he has received as many as twenty-five letters from women ranging in ages from 27 to 57, as far South as Atlanta and as far North as Baltimore. All of them suggested correspondence with a view to matrimony.

Hampton.—Colonel Nelson Smith Groome, members of the House of Delegates from Elizabeth City County and Hampton, president of the Bank of Hampton and a leading man of Tidewater, Virginia, died suddenly in his office at the bank. Heart trouble is given as the cause. Colonel Groome appeared in the bank in apparently robust health at 9 o'clock. He conferred with friends and about 11 o'clock took his wife and son, Nelson S. Groome, Jr., to a car and told them he would join them at their home on the boulevard by noon. He walked back to his office and was met by John B. Kimberly. Colonel Groome told Mr. Kimberly that he was sick, and before his visitor could respond the banker was dead. Several physicians hurriedly answered a call, but found Colonel Groome dead.

Winchester.—The angoumois grain moth, or fly weevil, reported by E. N. Cory, State entomologist of Maryland, as causing almost unprecedented infestation in stored wheat throughout that State, also is responsible for thousands of dollars of damage to both farmers and millers in Northern Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania, according to a statement given out by a large local milling corporation. It said that practically all wheat now being delivered is infested, and that unless farmers at once take steps to combat the pest, they are liable to lose all the wheat they have on hand, whether threshed or not. How to use carbon bisulphide in eradicating the pest is told in a bulletin of the United States Department of Agriculture, it was said.

Charlottesville. — Murray M. McGuire, of Richmond, president of the athletic council; Dr. John H. Neff, of the faculty, and E. R. Stettinius, Jr., manager of baseball, have been appointed a committee to select Virginia's baseball coach, and Virginius Shakelford, or Orange, Va.; Dr. Geo. O. Ferguson, of the faculty, and S. M. Goodwin were named to make recommendations to the S. I. A. A. Meanwhile the football squad on Lambeth Field is day by day being put through a driving process of development by Coaches Campbell and Abel.

Danville.—Mrs. Howard M. Hoge, of Lincoln, was re-elected for the twenty-fifth successive time, president of the Virginia Woman's Christian Temperance Union by the convention in session here. Other officers re-elected were: Mrs. Lillian M. Shepherd, Norfolk, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Evelyn G. Peterson, Pamplin, recording secretary; Mrs. Elizabeth R. Strickler, Petersburg, treasurer. Mrs. Hoge received all but about twenty votes from the convention.

WASHINGTON SIDELIGHTS

Plan for the Irrigation of a Vast Tract

WASHINGTON.—The three-year survey of the Rio Grande irrigation project designed to improve nearly half a million acres of land has been completed by engineers for the United States reclamation service. The engineers now are engaged in drafting a report, recommending approval of the project, which will be submitted to Director Arthur Davis.

By the construction of a dam across the river, above the little town of Rio Grande City, Tex., it will be possible, engineers say, to bring under gravity irrigation an area of from 350,000 to 500,000 acres.

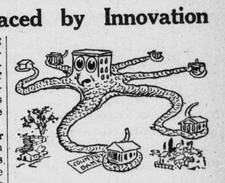
If this project is realized the engineers declare it will comprise the greatest irrigated area in the United States.

The cost of this project in the lower Rio Grande valley, it is estimated, would range from $80,000,000 to $100,000,000, depending upon the height of the main dam and whether one or two storage dams will be deemed essential.

It will be recommended that, if built, construction shall be by the United States government, either by advancing the funds directly, taking liens against the land within the district until repayment is made, or by underwriting the bonds of a vast irrigation district to be created.

The magnitude of the project has impressed the engineers, who point out that with a climate such as possessed by the Rio Grande valley it will be possible always to raise two and possibly three crops each year. Frost rarely ever reaches the Rio Grande country, which is in about the same latitude as lower Florida, and even now is the source of most of the early vegetables for the Middle West.

State Banks Menaced by Innovation



PROTESTING against the growing disposition of city banks to encroach on the business of state institutions by the establishment of "branches" in small towns, Congressman Millspaugh of Missouri, spoke as follows from his place in the house of representatives:

"Mr. Speaker, there has been for some years a growing disposition on the part of some of the larger banks to encroach upon the business of the smaller financial institutions by the establishment of branches or "feeders," as we might term them. This has been accomplished to a large extent by the acquisition of control of smaller banks by the larger banks through purchase; but recently some of the larger national banks have sought authority from the comptroller of the currency to establish branches, particularly in states which permit state banks to establish branches, giving as a reason the fact that they could not successfully compete with the state banks in those states, and when denied this authority it resulted in many national banks surrendering their charters and converting into state banks in order that they might avail themselves of the authority granted by the state to maintain branches.

"This condition is deplorable, and to add to the gravity of the situation a large national bank in one of our Missouri cities—which state does not permit branch banking—has recently announced a policy of establishing a number of branch offices throughout that city.

"Mr. Speaker, during the great World war the country banks of the nation set a standard of patriotism, loyalty, and self-sacrifice that might well be emulated by the large financial institutions which are now striving to suck their lifeblood from them.

"Many country banks and their customers, farmers and business men, are today struggling in adversity as a result of their loyalty and self-sacrifice during the war, and if branch banking is permitted to continue it will be the final blow."

Detectives Are Not Supermen of Fiction

THE best detective on William J. Flynn's force, or for that matter William J. Flynn himself—how would such a mere human being look in a detective story? "Pretty sick!" said Mr. Flynn, who was at the head of the United States secret service throughout the war and for many years before it. "As supermen we are practically useless," he told Marian Storm of the New York Sun. "I've spent months on a case, chased every clue and half-clue, and then never solved it. That would make a fat plot for a novel, wouldn't it? To tell the truth, I'd be shy of employing a super-detective. I think he might be too conspicuous.

"I used to read the new detective novels quite hopefully, thinking I might come across some sub-superstealth, who had to give up a case, but now I know that I never shall. You hardly expect Nick Carter's creator or Sherlock Holmes' or Sax Rohmer to give you real life, but I thought that some of these newer realistic writers might take it into their heads to turn out a realistic detective. I was unreasonable. Life is too bulky to be printed. The super-sleuth is necessary as a paper-saving device."

"Razorbacks" Tied Up; Snakes Increase

TIME was, and not so long ago, the Department of Agriculture announces, when the life of a snake, even the deadly rattler, was a short one. The hog reigned supreme in the forest. There were no fences and his range was a wide one. His favorite dish was the live rattler. And in his greed the territory over which he ranged was completely cleared of this most dangerous of American reptiles.

Experiments were conducted and it was learned that the hog made no effort at all to avoid the snake or his bite. His heavy hide and the thick coating of fat just beneath has no circulation.

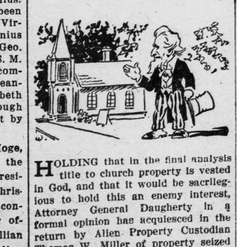
The snake struck fair, but it had no more effect than biting a tree. The poison did not get into the circulation of the hog, but the snake did get into the ample digestion of the swine.

Then the Vanderbilts acquired a vast estate in North Carolina and fenced it in. Others followed. Came state fence laws, compelling owners of property to keep their swine and cattle from roaming at large.

The razorback, being after no fashion a thoroughbred, was barred and in his place came the very lazy, stall-fed, Berkshires.

At about this time field workers for the two government services discovered that snakes were beginning to increase. And within the last year, it is announced, they have become so dangerous that employees have been equipped with emergency kits, so frequently are they attacked by rattlers.

No Enemy Interest in Church Property



HOLDING that in the final analysis title to church property is vested in God, and that it would be sacrilegious to hold this an enemy interest, Attorney General Daugherty in a formal opinion has acquiesced in the return by Alien Property Custodian Thomas W. Miller of property seized by a former alien property custodian from the Reformed Church of Hungary in America.

"Who holds the beneficial interest in this trust?" the attorney general asked. "If it is held by the Deity, then surely it would be sacrilegious to hold there is an enemy interest."

The property, amounting to approximately $20,000 in mortgages and certificates of indebtedness to the mother church in Hungary, secured by church property here, was seized at the outbreak of the war from the Hungarian General Credit bank at Cleveland, acting as agent of the church in all financial matters. The decision in this case will serve as a precedent in other church property seizures.

Asserting that with the advancement of civilization and the growth of the Christian religion there was an increasing tendency to save from seizure and destruction property devoted purely to religious and charitable work, the attorney general said that the United States had always stood for such a policy, and "from time to time had pointed with pride to its attitude thereon.

"That this is a religious and Christian country," Mr. Daugherty declared, "will not be questioned."

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